

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6115

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: TSPA, CA
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S VIEWS ON COSMOS 954
MATTER

REF: OTTAWA 408

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS, FROM PRIME MINISTER'S JAN 26
PRESS CONFERENCE, RE THE COSMOS 954 MATTER.

2. Q: PRIME MINISTER, I'M RICHARD HUNT OF NBC NEWS, IN
THE UNITED STATES.

A: WHAT COUNTRY?

Q: NBC NEWS FROM THE SOUTH. WOULD YOU TELL ME WHAT YOUR
VIEWS ARE ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES PROJECTING RADIOACTIVE
MATERIAL OVER CANADIAN HEADS?

A: WELL, I ONLY KNOW OF TWO COUNTRIES THAT HAVE DONE
THAT, THAT IS THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION AND
I THINK IT IS BECAUSE OF THESE ACTIVITIES THAT BOTH
COUNTRIES AND CANADA HAVE GONE A LONG WAY IN ARRIVING
AT INTERNATIONAL TREATIES TO INSURE THAT SATELLITES
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WOULD NOT BE THE SOURCE OF ANY NUCLEAR ARMS AND IF ANY
DAMAGE RESULTED THEY WOULD BE LIABLE FOR THAT DAMAGE.

SO I THINK THE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK, INTERNATIONAL
LEGAL FRAMEWORK IS THERE AND IT WAS PUT THERE BECAUSE ALL
OF US REALIZE THAT THERE WERE GOING TO BE THINGS HUSTLING
AROUND IN SPACE AND WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE

LEGAL REGIME CONCERNING THEM WAS ADOPTED WELL BEFORE ANY-
THING OF THIS KIND HAPPENED.

MAYBE, BECAUSE YOU ARE A VISITOR, YOU SHOULD GET A
SUPPLEMENTARY. I'M NOT QUITE SURE IF I HAVE MET YOUR
CONCERN.

Q: IF I MAY BE PERMITTED ONE FURTHER QUESTION, SIR. WE
AMERICANS ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT YOU CANADIANS ARE
NOT MORE INDIGNANT ABOUT THE WHOLE THING AND THAT WAS
REALLY THE THRUST OF MY QUESTION.

A: WELL ALL I CAN SAY IS YOU AMAZE ME. I GUESS MAYBE
CANADIANS, EVEN IN THEIR INDIGNATION, DON'T RISE TO GREAT
HEIGHTS. I WAS TOLD IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, WAS IT
YESTERDAY, BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION WHO SEEMED
QUITE INDIGNANT THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
HAD DARED TO PHONE ME TO TELL ME ABOUT A SATELLITE COMING
OUT OF ORBIT INTO CANADA.

I QUITE FRANKLY -- MAYBE YOUR QUESTION IS PROVOCATIVE --
I HAVE A CONTRARY REACTION. IF I WERE AN AMERICAN I
WOULD WONDER WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH THESE CANADIANS.
THEY ARE ANNOYED BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES FED US INFOR-
MATION THAT IT HAD NO OBLIGATION TO FEED US UNDER THE
NORAD TREATY. GAVE ME INFORMATION ON SPACE MATTERS LAST
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DECEMBER WHEN I VISITED COLORADO SPRINGS THAT IT HAD NO
OBLIGATION TO GIVE ME. IT HAS CONSTANTLY GIVEN OUR
DEFENCE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION ON SPACE THAT IS NOT
COVERED OR DEMANDED BY THE NORAD TREATY WHICH, AS YOU
KNOW, COVERS AIR DEFENCE AND NOT SPACE, WHICH COMES
UNDER NASA, NOT UNDER NORAD.

SO THEY HAVE GIVEN US MORE THAN THEY REALLY HAD TO. THE
PRESIDENT OF YOUR COUNTRY GOES OUT OF HIS WAY TO PHONE ME
IN THE MORNING TO TELL ME THAT SOMETHING IS GOING TO
HAPPEN WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE
STAFF IS BEING PHONED BY SOMEBODY ELSE AND MR. BRZEZINSKI
IS PHONING MY CHIEF EXTERNAL ADVISOR IN MY OFFICE AND
SOMEHOW YOU SAY WE SHOULD BE INCENSED THAT THE AMERICANS
HAVE NOT DONE THINGS RIGHT. I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND THAT.

Q: IN 1971 YOU SIGNED A FRIENDSHIP PROTOCOL IN MOSCOW.
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY ONE OF THE STIPULATIONS OF THE
DOCUMENT WAS CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION ON MATTERS OF
MUTUAL CONCERN. WAS THIS NOT A CASE, A MATTER OF MUTUAL
CONCERN? WHY WAS NOT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND YOU
PERSONALLY ADVISED FROM MOSCOW ABOUT THE SATELLITE?

A: I GUESS BECAUSE -- WELL, WE ARE IN A POSITION NOW THAT IT IS WRONG THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE PHONED ME BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF MR. BREZHNEV TO PHONE ME. I REALLY FIND SOME TROUBLE IN FOLLOWING THE LOGIC OF SOME CANADIAN OPINIONS ON THIS.

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF MAN MADE OBJECTS GOING AROUND IN SPACE. I SUPPOSE ROUGHLY HALF OF THEM BELONG TO THE RUSSIANS AND THE OTHER HALF TO THE AMERICANS. SOME OF THEM ARE GOING TO FALL SOMEDAY. NOBODY KNOWS WHERE THEY ARE GOING TO FALL. A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THIS PARTICULAR ONE FELL THE SOVIETS SAY THEY THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO FALL

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IN THE BERING STRAITS SOMEWHERE. I WAS TOLD THAT IT MIGHT JUST AS WELL FALL IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AS IN CANADA. I DON'T FAULT ANY COUNTRY FOR NOT HAVING TOLD ME, I AM, AFTER ALL, ONE HEAD OF WHAT IS IT, 150 GOVERNMENTS, THAT MAYBE SOMETHING IS GOING TO FALL IN MY TERRITORY. I SAY, LET ME GO BACK TO SLEEP. I KNOW THERE ARE THINGS UP THERE. I KNOW THEY ARE GOING TO FALL SOMEDAY, BUT I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT UNTIL IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THEY ARE GOING TO FALL IN MY COUNTRY. WHEN YOU HEAR THAT, CALL ME AGAIN, AND THEY DID.

THE SOVIETS DID NOT KNOW IT WAS GOING TO FALL IN OUR COUNTRY. I THINK THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING - WERE THEY COMPLETELY FORTHCOMING WITH THE UNITED STATES, I SUPPOSE IT IS FOR THE AMERICANS TO SAY, BUT I DON'T CONSIDER THAT THEY WERE UNDER ANY OBLIGATION TO TELL US IT WAS GOING TO FALL IN CANADA UNTIL IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT

IT WOULD FALL IN CANADA. WE HAPPEN TO HAVE THAT INFORMATION FROM THE AMERICANS BECAUSE WE ARE IN THIS GREAT PARTNERSHIP IN NORAD AND BECAUSE OF THAT PARTNERSHIP THEY ALSO TELL US ABOUT SPACE THINGS BUT WE ARE NOT IN ANY SPACE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOVIETS AND I WOULD NOT EXPECT THEM TO GIVE THAT KIND OF INFORMATION. ONCE IT IS GOING TO FALL I THINK THEY ARE UNDER SOME OBLIGATION
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TO TELL US IF THEY KNOW IT IS GOING TO BE IN CANADA AND ONCE IT HAS HAPPENED THEY ARE UNDER SOME OBLIGATION TO BE VERY FORTHCOMING ON THE INFORMATION THEY CAN GIVE US ABOUT IT. I UNDERSTAND DISCUSSIONS ARE GOING ON BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE SOVIETS NOW AND THEY HAVE OFFERED TO PUT PERSONNEL OR HELP AT OUR DISPOSAL IF WE NEEDED IT.

I REALLY CAN'T GET EXCITED ABOUT THIS THING EXCEPT INsofar AS IT HAS BEEN A PRECEDENT. IT IS THE FIRST TIME IT HAS HAPPENED TO US AND BECAUSE WE ARE PRETTY GOOD AT SETTING UP INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS I SUPPOSE NOW WE ARE GOING TO MAKE SOME ARRANGEMENTS FOR WHAT SHOULD BE DONE NEXT TIME ONE OF THOSE 4,000 OBJECTS THAT ARE IN ORBIT, IF ONE OF THEM SEEMS TO COME DOWN AGAIN, MAYBE WE WILL HAVE SOME PROCEDURE FOR PHONING EACH OTHER AT A CERTAIN HOUR AND WE WILL KNOW MORE WHAT TO DO; BUT I THINK THIS THING WAS HANDLED VERY WELL BY THE AMERICANS.

Q: DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT THE RUSSIANS WHEN MONITORING THEIR OWN SATELLITES THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW THE ORBIT OF THIS PARTICULAR ONE, THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW THE MALFUNCTION, THAT THEY COULD NOT ESTIMATE ROUGHLY THE AREA WHERE IT WOULD COME DOWN.

WHAT I MEAN IS, AT THE MOMENT BOTH THE RUSSIANS AND THE AMERICANS CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT NORTH AMERICAN IS THE LIKELY PLACE WHERE THE THING WOULD COME DOWN, WHY WAS NOT MOSCOW PHONING YOU UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PROTOCOL OF 1971. I'M GOING BACK TO THE PROTOCOL BECAUSE THERE ARE SPECIAL OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE PROTOCOL FOR MOSCOW AND YOU TO CONSULT ONE ANOTHER ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN; SO AT THE MOMENT MOSCOW CAME TO THE CONCLUSION AS THE AMERICANS DID THAT NORTH AMERICA IS THE MOST LIKELY PLACE THE SATELLITE WOULD COME DOWN, WHY DID NOT MR.
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BREZHNEV OR SOMEONE ELSE PICK THE PHONE AND LET YOU KNOW UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 1971 PROTOCOL.

A: INSOFAR AS THEM KNOWING, I UNDERSTAND THEY DID KNOW, SO YOUR RHETORICAL QUESTION, DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THEY DID NOT KNOW, I THINK THEY HAD BEEN DISCUSSING THIS WITH THE AMERICANS FOR, WHAT IS IT, A FEW WEEKS OR A MONTH. OBVIOUSLY THEY KNEW IT WAS TUMBLING AND NOT FOLLOWING ITS REGULAR ORBIT. WAS IT SOME TIME IN LATE DECEMBER OR EARLY JANUARY, I DON'T KNOW, BUT OBVIOUSLY THEY KNEW AND THEY WERE TALKING TO THE AMERICANS, THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE CAPABILITY OF WATCHING WHAT IS GOING ON IN SPACE. WE DON'T HAVE THAT CAPABILITY.

NOW, I REPEAT, LAST WEEK, I WAS TOLD THE DAY BEFORE IT MIGHT FALL IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OR IT MIGHT FALL IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC OR IT MIGHT FALL OVER CANADA. THE RUSSIANS TELL US THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD FALL SOMEWHERE AROUND THE BERING STRAIGHTS IN THE HIGH SEAS. IF THEIR KNOWLEDGE WAS MORE PRECISE THAN THAT AND THEY DID NOT TELL US, THEN I ACCEPT YOUR POINT, THEY SHOULD HAVE TOLD US; BUT THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES DID NOT HAVE PRECISE KNOWLEDGE AND YOU TALK ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD IN NORTH AMERICA, THIS IS NOT MY UNDERSTANDING. I REPEAT ONCE AGAIN THE NIGHT BEFORE WHEN I WENT TO BED IT WAS BELIEVED THAT IT COULD JUST AS LIKELY FALL IN SOUTH ATLANTIC. WE KNEW THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT IT WOULD FALL IN CANADA AND WE TOOK CERTAIN PREVENTATIVE MEASURES, WE HAVE BEEN TAKING THEM FOR A WEEK, BUT THERE WAS NO CERTAINTY IT WOULD HAPPEN.

ONCE AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW IF THE AMERICANS FEEL THAT THE SOVIETS WERE COMPLETELY FORTHCOMING, THAT IS FOR THEM TO

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DISCUSS. WE HAVE EMBARKED UPON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. I QUITE FRANKLY, IF I WOULD FAULT THEM, IT MIGHT BE IN SOME MATTER OF DETAIL STILL UNCOVERED. I CERTAINLY WOULD NOT REFER TO THE 1971 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BECAUSE THAT WAS MEANT TO COVER ALL KINDS OF MATTER BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT NEITHER THE SOVIETS OR I HAD IN MIND THAT IT WOULD COVER ONE DAY FALLING SATELLITES.

Q: MR. TRUDEAU, BEFORE I GET TO MY QUESTION, I THINK YOU CONFUSED US ALL IN YOUR ANSWER TO MR. HUNT TO SOME EXTENT WHEN YOU SAID THAT YOU DID NOT THINK THAT UNDER NORAD WE HAD ANY RIGHT OR NECESSITY TO KNOW ABOUT SPACE THINGS, INCLUDING THE SATELLITES.

CERTAINLY THE MONITORING OF ALL OF THIS STUFF GOING AROUND IS UNDER NORAD UNDER OUR UNDERSTANDING?

A: NO, THAT IS NOT THE CASE. NORAD STANDS FOR NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENCE -- NORAD, AND THAT IS WHAT IT IS. IT IS AN AIR DEFENCE AGREEMENT ESSENTIALLY AGAINST BOMBERS AND TO A LESSER EXTENT AGAINST BALLISTIC MISSILES BUT INsofar AS THEY ARE ENTERING OUR AIR SPACE, THE AIR SPACE OF NORTH AMERICA. THAT IS THE NORAD AGREEMENT. IT IS AN AGREEMENT TO PUT TOGETHER OUR KNOWLEDGE AND TO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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A JOINT COMMAND TO PROTECT OURSELVES IN AIR DEFENCE.

THE SPACE ACTIVITIES DON'T COME UNDER NORAD, THEY COME UNDER NASA. THEY ARE MONITORED AND OPERATED TO A LARGE DEGREE FROM THE SAME PLACE IN COLORADO SPRINGS BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE. BECAUSE WE HAVE A JOINT COMMAND OF NORAD AS WE DO AT NORTH BAY, THE CANADIAN IS SECOND IN COMMAND THERE JUST AS THE AMERICAN IS SECOND IN COMMAND AT NORTH BAY AND THEY EXCHANGE A LOT OF INFORMATION THAT THEY ARE NOT OBLIGED TO EXCHANGE UNDER THE NORAD AGREEMENT.

WHEN I CAME OUT OF THE TUNNEL IN COLORADO SPRINGS I MADE THAT POINT EXACTLY THAT THEY HAD GONE AWAY BEYOND BRIEFING ME ABOUT NORAD; THEY HAD GONE AT SOME GREAT LENGTHS INTO SPACE MATTERS; AND I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN THAT. ON THE CONTRARY, I THINK THERE IS A GREAT ROLE FOR CANADA TO PLAY IN SPACE. I THINK IT IS ONE OF THE TECHNOLOGIES OF THE FUTURE. WE ALREADY HAVE ONE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND INDEED ONE OF THE CONCLUSIONS I DREW FROM MY COLORADO SPRINGS VISIT WAS THAT WE SHOULD SHIFT THE EMPHASIS TO SPACE, PERHAPS RECONCEIVE NORAD IN THE DIRECTION YOU ARE SUGGESTING, AND INCLUDE SPACE INTO IT; BUT

THAT IS NOT THE CASE UNTIL NOW.

THAT IS WHY I SAY THE FACT THAT THE AMERICANS WERE VERY FORTHCOMING ON SPACE SUBJECTS WENT BEYOND THEIR OBLIGATION AS PARTNERS IN NORAD. THEY DID IT AS FRIENDS; THEY DID IT AS NEIGHBOURS; AND WE ARE VERY, VERY GRATEFUL FOR IT.

ONCE AGAIN THAT IS WHY I CAN'T SHARE THE INDIGNATION OF THOSE WHO THINK THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING UNTOWARD IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN APPROACH TO CANADA ON THIS. THEY GAVE US MORE INFORMATION EARLIER THAN THEY HAD TO. THEY DID USE THE NORAD SITE AND THEY DID INDEED USE THE NORAD CHANNELS AND GOLD PHONES AND EVERYTHING ELSE TO GET THE INFORMATION THROUGH BUT THIS IS THROUGH THE ACCIDENT THAT SPACE OPERATIONS HAPPEN TO BE LOCATED IN THE SAME PLACE AS THE NORAD OPERATIONS. ENDERS

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